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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

1940.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.,

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

A.A.EDWARDS. (Resigned 25.5.40.)

O.N.LITTLE. (Appointed 27.5.40.)

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

E.E. JORDAN, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

+ E.G. WATKINS.

+ Now serving with H.M. Forces.

Telephone - Ledbury 130.

Council Offices,
Southend,
Ledbury.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1940. It is to be regarded as an interim report and its very retarded appearance is due to pressure of work in the Department.

May I express my appreciation for the support and assistance which the Council has always given me in the discharge of my duties throughout the year. I have to acknowledge also the help given me by Mr. H.W. Orme, Clerk to the Council, Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer, and Mr. E.E. Jordan, Sanitary Inspector in the preparation of this report and throughout the period under review.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,,

William Hogg

Area Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.- STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	49,867
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1940 ...	12,840
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to rate books ...	2,40[illegible]
Rateable Value	£33,027
Sum represented by a penny rate	£138.10.0

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:-

	For I.M. etc.			For B.R. etc.			
Live Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male,	Female.	
Legitimate	117	63	54	114	62	52	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population = 9.2
Illegitimate	4	2	2	4	2	2	
Still Births.							
Legitimate	9	4	5	8	38	5	Birth Rate per 1,000 total(live & Still) births = 9.8
Deaths.	132	73	59				Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population(crude) = 10.3

Adjusted Death Rate (Comparability Factor 1.01) ... ... = 10.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
No. 29. -- Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30. -- Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	66.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	68.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

SECTION B. -- GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Laboratory Facilities:-

These remained unchanged, and the following statement shows the amount of work carried out by the County and City Public Health Laboratory:

Urine	2
Swabs for Diphtheria	241
" " other organisms	33
Sputa for tubercle bacilli	38
Faeces	1
Pus	1
Blood for agglutination reactions	3
Meat Paste	1
Milk for pathogenic organisms	2
Water -- Chemical examination	57
Bacteriological	59
	438

SECTION C.- SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

Water.

The supervision which the Department maintains over supplies was continued throughout the year and 57 samples of potable waters from various supplies were sent for chemical examination and 59 for bacteriological examination. Of these samples, 32 were found not to be fit for potable purposes as a result of chemical examination and 37 were unsatisfactory as a result of bacteriological examination.

Drainage.

The sewers and sewage disposal works in the Parish of Colwall were maintained in good order throughout the year. Seventy new drains were constructed in connection with dwelling houses and 11 existing drains were improved.

Closet Accommodation.

The Department secured the conversion of 4 privies to pail closets and 2 privies were replaced by water closets.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr.E.E. Jordan, continued to discharge his duties throughout the year with efficiency and tact. Mr. E.G. Watkins was called to the colours at the beginning of the year and, as a result, the inspection of the District, during the period under review decreased. The loss of his services was felt most during September, in connection with the inspection of hop-picker's camps.

I am indebted to the Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections.

Building Bye-laws	62
Bakehouses	2
Dairies and Cowsheds	57
Factories with Mechanical Power	8
Factories without Mechanical Power	5
Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	nil
Other Housing Inspections	10
Hop-picker's Quarters	32
Infectious Disease	68
Nuisances	48
Schools	5
Slaughter Houses	6
Water Supplies	55
Miscellaneous	116
	474

Notices Issued:-

Informal	87
Statutory re Housing	nil
Statutory under other Acts	3
	90

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

New Wells Sunk	3
Wells Cleansed and Repaired	20
Houses supplied from Waterworks	5
House drains laid or relaid	20
Drains cleansed, trapped and ventilated ...	11
Defective waste pipes rectified	9
Defective W.C.s, Sinks and Urinals rectified	11
Drains and sanitary fittings repaired	5
New W.C.s provided	10
Disinfections after Infectious Disease	34
Houses cleansed and limewashed	15
Privies converted to Pail closets	4
Privies converted to Water closets	2
Pail closets converted to water closets ...	nil

School Closures:

School.	Period.	Cause.
Ashperton & Canon Frome.	18.1.40. - 26.1.40.	Coughs & Colds.
Little Marcle.	23.1.40. - 26.1.40.	" " "
Colwall Girl's Valley.	22.1.40. - 26.1.40.	" " "
Woolhope.	22.1.40. - 26.1.40.	Impetigo & Chicken Pox.
Wellington Heath Infant's.	22.1.40. - 26.1.40.	Coughs & Colds.
Coddington.	25.1.40. - 26.1.40.	" " "
Yarkhill.	23.1.40. - 26.1.40.	" " "
Little Marcle.	29.1.40. - 2.2.40.	" " "
Coddington.	28.1.40. - 2.2.40.	" " "
Tarrington.	29.1.40. - 2.2.40.	" " "
Coddington.	8.2.40. - 9.2.40.	" " "
Colwall Hill.	27.2.40. - 4.3.40.	Influenza.
Colwall Hill.	4.3.40. - 8.3.40.	"
Coddington.	30.4.40. - 3.5.40.	German Measles.

Hop-picker's Quarters.

Whilst 32 of these premises were inspected during the season - representing a large proportion of the time of the Sanitary Inspector I feel that this is inadequate but, more efficient inspection cannot be achieved by the Inspector without assistance. Proper inspection of these premises takes up considerable time and unless it is thorough little has been accomplished.

SECTION D.- HOUSING:

As a reslut of the War, progress in Housing was brought to a standstill so far as the provision of new dwellings was concerned. The Department continued to secure the good maintenance of houses, ten inspections being made for this purpose and several repairs were secured details of which are given in the statement of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.- INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Supervision of food supplies continued throughout the year. Two samples of milk, and one sample of meat paste were examined by bacteriological methods at the County and City Laboratory, Hereford, for the presence of pathogenic organisms. In all cases the result of the examination proved these foods to be entirely satisfactory.

Inspection of dairies and cowsheds was maintained, 57 inspections being made. Conditions under which milk is produced are fairly satisfactory as a result of unceasing effort by the Sanitary Inspector, to secure and maintain conditions and methods reasonably hygienic.

SECTION F.- PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

The total number of notifications received during the year was 145.

Notifiable Diseases During the Year 1940.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever.	28	13
Diphtheria.	11	11
Pneumonia	13	nil
Erysipelas.	2	1
Enteric Fever.	1	1
Measles.	74	nil
Whooping Cough.	10	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	nil
Polio Myelitis.	1	1
Dysentery.	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	3	3

Analysis of the Total Notified Cases according to age.

	Age Groups.												Totals.
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over.	
Scarlet Fever.	-	2	3	-	1	10	10	-	1	1	-	-	28
Diphtheria.	-	1	-	2	-	3	3	-	1	1	-	-	11
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	2	2	4	13
Erysipelas.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles.	-	1	2	-	2	23	40	3	3	-	-	-	74
Whooping Cough.	3	-	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Polio Myelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Totals.	[illegible]	5	5	5	44	55	3	8	4	3	4		145

Tuberculosis:-

On the 1st. January, 1940, there was a total of 22 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register; of these, 16 were pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary.

During the year, 17 notifications were received, 12 being for pulmonary and 5 for non-pulmonary disease. There were 15 cases (12 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary) removed from the Register on account of recovery, death or change of residence, leaving a total of 24 cases (17 pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary) on the Register on the 31st. December, 1940.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
15-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
35-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-	3	2	-	-	3	2	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	4	3	2	6	2	-	-

-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-